

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: MORNING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY 5/19

NO. 43

NEW YORK TIMES

1. CHRISTOPHER WREN FROM GENEVA

HEADLINE: "VANCE AND GROMYKO OPEN GENEVA PARLEY"

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO TODAY BEGAN ANOTHER ROUND OF
NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT OVERCOMING THE STALEMATE ON A NEW
AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC WEAPONS."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- AFTER FIRST MEETING, TWO SIDES AGREED TO RETURN TO
ISSUE TOMORROW, DEFERRING MIDEAST DISCUSSION.

-- FRIENDLY TONE AT BEGINNING OF MEETINGS.

--SPACE AGREEMENT SIGNED.

-- ENMOD SIGNED.

-- VANCE CAUTIOUS ON PREDICTING OUTCOME OF SALT TALKS.

GROMYKO EQUALLY CIRCUMSPECT.

-- A STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN SAID DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND PROPOSALS ALREADY ADVANCED.

-- BACKGROUND ON SALT ISSUES IN DISPUTE.

2. BERNIE GWERTZMAN FROM GENEVA.

HEADLINE: "SETBACK IS SEEN IN PLANS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE"

LEAD: "THE SURPRISING OUTCOME OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS HAS, AT THE MINIMUM, FURTHER SET BACK THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S TIMETABLE FOR RECONVENING A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AMERICAN OFFICIALS DECLARED TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- MORE PROFOUND AND FAR-REACHING DIFFICULTIES MAY HAVE ARISEN, NOT MERELY PROCEDURAL ONES.

-- VANCE AND HIS TOP AIDES HAVE DECLINED TO DISCUSS ELECTION RESULTS, HOPING IN EFFECT, THAT THE WORST SCENARIOS DO NOT OCCUR AND THAT SOMEHOW A COALITION CABINET CAN BE FORMED TO KEEP PEACE EFFORTS ALIVE.

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-- AMERICANS IN PARTICULAR HAVE REFUSED TO DISCUSS CHARGES THAT US CONTRIBUTED TO LABOR DEFEAT.

-- "SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON, IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS," SAID CARTER UNDERCUT RABIN WITH REMARKS CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED LAND, AND THAT CERTAINLY HURT PERES.

-- INTEREST OF OFFICIALS SWITCHED OVERNIGHT FROM SALT TO MIDEAST AND ELECTION RESULTS. VANCE AT AIRPORT URGED A MORATORIUM ON SPECULATION.

-- MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING US AS RESULT OF ELECTION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

// GENEVA CONF PROBABLY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE AT ALL THIS YEAR. US CAN'T GO FURTHER UNTIL NEW ISRAELI GOVT IS FORMED AND ONLY IF NEW CABINET DOES NOT RULE OUT ANY PART OF A POSSIBLE PEACE PACKAGE.

// CARTER POLICY IN MIDEAST HAD BEEN PREDICATED ON ISRAELI GOVT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. BEGIN'S OPPOSITION TO RETURNING TERRITORY RAISES DOUBTS US

ASSUMPTION STILL VALID.

// US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL HAS IMPLICIT IN IT ASSUMPTION
THAT A STRONG ISRAEL WOULD BE MORE AMENABLE TO CONCESSIONS
FOR PEACE. IF GOI REJECTS MOVES US SEES AS VITAL, SHOULD
US CONTINUE ASSISTNACE? WILL CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT REMAIN
STRONG IF ISRAEL APPEARS LESS CONCILIATORY THAN THE ARABS?
"PROBABLY NOT."

-- US INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD ACCOMPLISHED LARGELY BECAUSE
US SEEN AS ONLY POWER ABLE TO GET ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. IF
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NEW GOVT REFUSES TO FOLLOW AMERICAN ADVICE, WILL THERE BE
A LOSS OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE?

-- WHEN SHOULD BEGIN COME TO US? IF HE COMES, HOW TO
TREAT HIM --AS LEADER OF FRIENDLY COUNTRY, OR WITH COOL-
NESS TO PRESS HIM TO ADOPT A CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE. BEGIN
WAS NEVER THOUGHT TO BE A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY AS PM.

-- UNTIL NOW, MAIN PROBLEM WAS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.
NOW, ARABS NOT LIKELY TO ATTEND IF ISRAEL WILL NOT DISCUSS
RETURN OF WEST BANK. IF NO NEGOTIATIONS ON WEST BANK,
SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM INCONCEIVABLE.

-- VANCE PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH GROMYKO POSSIBILITY OF
SOVIET HELP TO GET PLO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. USSR
WANTS TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE AND US NOW DISPOSED TO
CONSULT MORE FREQUENTLY. ISRAELI POLITICAL SITUATION MAY
MAKE THESE CONSULTATIONS AN EMPTY EXERCISE.

WASHINGTON POST

MICHAEL GETLER FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE DEFEAT OF ISRAEL'S LABOR PARTY YESTERDAY HAS
JOLTED AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE ON THE EVE OF NEW TALKS
WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE MIDDLE EAST."

OTHER POINTS:

-- PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED BY STATE DEPT OFFICIALS THAT
RESULT APPEARS TO HAVE THROWN A MONKEY WRENCH INTO A MAJOR
CARTER ADMIN FOREIGN POLICY CAMPAIGN.

-- WHITE HOUSE NOW CONFRONTED WITH NEW GOVT THAT COULD
TAKE LONG TIME TO ORGANIZE, AND ALSO DIG ITS HEELS IN ON
CONCESSIONS WHITE HOUSE ENVISAGES AS REASONABLE.
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-- SENIOR OFFICIALS IN GENEVA NOTED BEGIN'S INITIAL
REMARKS: COALITION MAY BE MORE MODERATE THAN EXPECTED.

-- IN BRIEF SESSION WITH REPORTERS, OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS
TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS IF CARTER ADMIN HELPED
ELECTION RESULTS BY PRESSURE ON LABOR GOVT.

-- SINCE THERE WAS LITTLE DETECTABLE OPTIMISM AMONG US
OFFICIALS ON SALT, GENEVA TALKS GOT UNDER WAY IN A SOME-
WHAT GLOOMY ATMOSPHERE FROM US POINT OF VIEW.

-- AS SIGNAL OF US WILLINGNESS FOR A GREATER SOVIET ROLE,
STATE DEPT OFFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS
WITH SOVIETS POSSIBILITY OF REGULAR MEETINGS ON MIDEAST.

-- US OFFICIALS REJECTED INTERPRETATION, CLAIMING US
SUGGESTION IS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE REGULARITY IN FORMERLY
SPORADIC MEETINGS.

-- PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BIGGEST SINGLE
OBSTACLE TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND IS ONE AREA WHERE
SOVIETS COULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE.

-- REGULAR MEETINGS WOULD NOT RESTRICT US ABILITY TO ACT
ON OWN.

-- PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR MEETINGS AND SPOTLIGHT-SHARING MAY
BE EFFORT TO CREATE GOOD WILL WITH KREMLIN THAT COULD
IMPROVE STRAINED RELATIONS IN OTHER AREAS.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JOHN MACLEAN FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND SOVIET
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FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO EXCHANGED FRESHENED
VERSIONS OF OLD PROPOSALS ON STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL
WEDNESDAY IN WHAT THEY CALLED 'BUSINESSLIKE' TALKS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- WHILE SOVIETS REJECTED US PROPOSALS 6 WEEKS AGO OUT OF
HAND, REACTION THIS TIME AT LEAST WAS POLITE. "VANCE
BREATHED ENOUGH LIFE INTO THE OLD WINE BY POURING IT INTO
NEW BOTTLES SO THAT THE SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN THURS-

DAY TO DISCUSS THEIR REACTIONS."

-- QUOTED CARTER ON "FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS."

-- VANCE HAS SPOKEN OF REACHING A "SYNTHESIS" BEFORE
AGREEMENT NOW IN FORCE RUNS OUT OCT 3.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO TALKED ON SALT 2 HRS 20 MINUTES AT
SOVIET MISSION.

-- DAY OPENED BY SIGNING OF TWO AGREEMENTS: ENMOD AND
SPACE ACCORD.

-- BACKGROUND INFO ON TWO AGREEMENTS.

HEARST

JOHN WALLACH FROM GENEVA IN BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN

LEAD: "THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS SIGNALED
THAT IT MAY BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A "SYNTHESIS" OR BLEND
OF THE TWO AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMS PROPOSALS THAT IT ANGRILY
REJECTED IN MOSCOW SEVEN WEEKS AGO."

OTHER POINTS:
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-- THIS WOULD OPEN WAY FOR SALT BREAKTHROUGH AND HAVE
IMPORTANT RAMIFICATION IN OTHER AREAS, PARTICULARLY
MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS.

-- OPTIMISTIC ACCOUNT WAS DISCLOSED BY "SOURCES CLOSE TO
SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE," WHO SAID SECOND ROUND OF
TALKS WOULD ALSO BE DEVOTED TO SALT.

-- SENIOR US ARMS NEGOTIATOR SAID "THIS THING" MAY GO ON
FOR AWHILE, "WITH APPARENT SATISFACTION."

-- US AND USSR ALREADY HAVE AGREED TO SET UP NEW MIDEAST
MACHINERY, POSSIBLY INCLUDING PERMANENT AMBASSADORS IN
GENEVA.

-- SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A "SYNTHESIS" WOULD MEAN
MOSCOW HAD YIELDED TO CARTER'S BID FOR MEANINGFUL REDUC-
TIONS.

-- US WILLINGNESS WOULD MEAN CARTER HAD REVERSED REFUSAL
TO INCLUDE ACCEPTABLE LIMITS ON CRUISE AND WOULD BE
WILLING TO NEGOTIATE LOWER RANGE LIMITS.

-- US MIGHT ALSO PROCEED TO SIGN BASIC VLADIVOSTOK AGRE-
EMENT, PAVING WAY FOR US-USSR SUMMIT IN FALL, IF MOSCOW
AGREED TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON "DEEP CUTS"
PROPOSAL.

-- QUOTED CARTER ON "FULL EXCHANGE."

-- FACT THAT GROMYKO EVEN AGREED TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS
APPEARED A POSITIVE SIGNAL.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

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ROBERT KEATLEY FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "SOVIET AND AMERICAN SENIOR DIPLOMATS REOPENED
TALKS YESTERDAY ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AND THEN REFUSED --
BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT -- TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY HAD ACCOMP-
LISHED."

-- CARTER WAS AUTHORIZED ONLY TO CALL INITIAL ROUND
"BUSINESSLIKE" AND SAY TWO SIDES HAD "FULL EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS."

-- AFTER GOING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ON SALT TODAY, THEY WILL
TALK ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE, CLOUDED BY ELECTION
RESULTS.

-- INDICATIONS THAT TALKS MAY GO BEYOND TOMORROW, THE
LIKELY CLOSING DATE.

-- APPEARS PROGRESS OF ONE SORT, AT LEAST, IS BEING MADE
TOWARD COMPLETION OF SALT II, "IF MR. CARTER'S FEW AND
CAREFUL WORDS ARE ACCURATE."

-- LAST TIME, BOTH SIDES REJECTED OTHER'S PROPOSALS. NOW,
VANCE AND GROMYKO SEEM TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE
CONCEPTS AND DETAILS INVOLVED IN ALL THREE PLANS.

-- IF SO, THAT INDICATES SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEGUN.

-- EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND ON PROPOSALS AND NEGOTIATING
HISTORY.

-- IMPORTANCE OF SALT EXTENDS BEYOND ISSUE OF CONTAINING
WEAPONS PROGRAMS. SALT HAS BECOME CENTERPIECE OF ENTIRE
SOVIET-US RELATIONSHIP. WITHOUT PROGRESS, EXPERTS THINK
RELATIONSHIP WILL DETERIORATE.

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-- KEATLEY REFERRED TO EXCHANGE OF REMARKS BY VANCE AND
GROMYKO ON BRIEFING BOOKS ("WHAT PASSES FOR HUMOR IN
DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES FOR THE BENEFIT OF WATCHING NEWSMEN.")

TALKS, WHICH WENT FOR 2 HRS 20 MINUTES, PRESUMABLY HAD BETTER RESULTS.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

1. OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION RESUMED WEDNESDAY, AND BOTH SIDES LEFT A CAUTIOUS HINT THAT SOME REAL BARGAINING IS AT LAST UNDER WAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- CARTER, SPEAKING FOR VANCE, DESCRIBED SESSIONS AS BUSINESSLIKE AND FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. DESCRIPTION JOINTLY AGREED AND NO FURTHER INFO TO BE MADE PUBLIC. ON SURFACE, THIS PROCEDURE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT THAN THAT IN MOSCOW IN MARCH.

-- APPEARED FROM OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION THAT TWO SIDES BEGAN WITH PRESUMPTION THAT MOSCOW DEADLOCK DID NOT WIPE SLATE CLEAN. BOTH SIDES BEGAN WITH WILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WAS ON TABLE.

-- NO INDICATION EITHER SIDE HAD PRESENTED ANYTHING NEW.

-- BOTH SIDES ARE OFFICIALLY HOLDING TO THEIR IRRECONCILABLE PUBLIC POSITIONS.

-- ENMOD SIGNED.

2. SECOND JOHNSTON PIECE FROM GENEVA
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LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE INTENDS TO INVITE THE RUSSIANS TO JOIN REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE HOPES OF WINNING SOVIET COOPERATION IN URGING THE PALESTINIANS TO MODERATE THEIR HOSTILITY TO ISRAEL, STATE DEPT OFFICIALS SAID WEDNESDAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ON SURFACE, THIS IS CONCESSION TO RUSSIANS. US OFFICIALS REJECTED THAT INTERPRETATION. A RANKING OFFICIAL BRIEFING REPORTERS SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO PUT ON "SYSTEMATIC" FOOTING A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION THAT HAD BEEN "AD HOC."

-- OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT THE ONE REMAINING SPHERE RUSSIANS CARRY WEIGHT HAS TO DO WITH PALESTINIANS, ESPECIALLY

IALLY PLO. PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IS MAIN OBSTACLE TO PEACE CONFERENCE.

-- WHILE US HAS SAID IT WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH PLO UNTIL IT ACCEPTS ISRAEL, AND VANCE HOLDS TO THAT FORMULA, CLEAR THAT US WOULD LOOK WITH SYMPATHY ON ANY MECHANISM FOR GETTING PALESTINIANS TO A CONFERENCE THAT AVOIDS THE TECHNICAL OBSTACLE OF CASTING THEM AS A SEPARATE ARAB DELEGATION.

-- ELECTION RESULTS IN ISRAEL MAY MAKE ALL CALCULATIONS MOOT.

-- "MIDDLE EAST SPECIALISTS WITH VANCE PARTY MUST HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY OUTCOME BUT THEY WERE CAREFUL TO GIVE NO IMPRESSION OF BEING DISHEARTENED."

-- VANCE HAS ALREADY PUT JUNE MIDEAST TRIP INTO JULY, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTION RESULTS WILL DELAY PROCESS EVEN FURTHER.

AP

BARRY SCHWEID FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO ENDED THEIR SECOND DAY OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS TODAY AND DECLARED AN OVERNIGHT RECESS TO CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVES."

OTHER POINTS:

-- DECISION TO MEET FRIDAY ONLY HINT THAT SOME PROGRESS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE.

-- TALKS SCHEDULED LATER IN DAY ON MIDEAST.

-- DISCUSSED TODAY WAS SOVIET PROPOSAL BASED ON VLADIVOSTOK AND PAIR OF US PROPOSALS REJECTED IN MARCH, US OFFICIALS SAID.

-- CARTER QUOTED ON "IMPLICATION" THAT TALKS ARE FULL, BUSINESSLIKE, GOOD-FAITH.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO HAD PLANNED TO HOLD SALT SESSIONS TWO DAYS, BUT HAVE ALREADY SURPASSED LENGTH OF MARCH MOSCOW TALKS.

-- EARLIER, WALDHEIM SAID "DEEP DIFFERENCES" CONTINUE BETWEEN US AND USSR AND PREDICTED IT WOULD TAKE "QUITE A

LONG TIME" TO REACH A NEW AGREEMENT.

NOTE: EARLIER PIECE LED WITH WALDHEIM REMARK, AND CONTAINED ADDITIONAL POINTS:

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-- WALDHEIM ALSO PRESENTED GLOOMY ASSESSMENT ON MIDEAST.

-- LIKUD VICTORY MADE SITUATION MORE COMPLICATED AND MADE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONF QUESTIONABLE.

-- WALDHEIM WARNED OF DANGER OF MIDEAST WAR THIS YEAR UNLESS SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE HAPPENED THIS YEAR.

-- VANCE/GROMYKO TALKS STARTED ON GOOD-HUMORED NOTE.

-- WEDNESDAY, PRES CARTER TOLD CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON HE STILL HOPES FOR "SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS," BUT THAT TWO GOVTs HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR CONFLICTING POSITIONS ON SALT II.

UPI

1. JIM ANDERSON FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE SECOND SESSION OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES BEGAN TODAY WITH BOTH SIDES BRINGING AN EXPANDED STAFF."

OTHER POINTS:

-- FIRST MEETING WEDNESDAY DESCRIBED AS "BUSINESSLIKE" -- A DESCRIPTION DELIBERATELY CHOSEN TO BE BLAND AND UNINFORMATIVE.

-- US OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT TALKS TO PRODUCE ANY SALT AGREEMENT, BUT IT COULD SUPPLY FRAMEWORK.

-- SALT AT SOVIET MISSION; MIDEAST AT VANCE HOTEL.

2. HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF ANDERSON POTBOILER, POSSIBLY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST.

BEGIN TEXT

THE TALKS BETWEEN SECSTATE VANCE AND SOVIET FORNMIN GROMYKO HAVE CONCLUSIVELY DEMONSTRATED ONE THING: NEITHER MAN IS A MASTER OF THE ART OF SMALL TALK.

AS THE SESSIONS BEGIN IN THE WALLED COMPOUND OF THE SOVIET MISSION, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND A SMALL GROUP OF REPORTERS ARE PERMITTED IN FOR A FEW MINUTES AND VANCE AND GROMYKO TRY TO MAKE SMALL TALK.

SOME SAMPLES:

GROMYKO: "DID YOU SLEEP WELL?"

VANCE: "YES, I GOT CAUGHT UP."

GROMYKO: "I DID, TOO."

LATER, INSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE FRENCH PROVINCIAL VILLA THAT IS THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE:

GROMYKO: "WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHERS LEAVE, WE WILL HAVE TO CLOSE THE DOOR, OTHERWISE SIBERIA WILL COME IN (AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE COLD WEATHER OUTSIDE)."

VANCE: (NERVOUS LAUGH) "YES."

AS PHOTOGRAPHERS LEAVE, GROMYKO ASKED, "GENTLEMEN, DID WE BEHAVE WELL?"

VANCE TELLS GROMYKO, WITH APPARENT RELIEF IN HIS VOICE, "WELL, SHALL WE GET TO WORK?"

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THE TALKS, WHEN THEY INVOLVE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION, TAKE PLACE AT THE SOVIET COMPOUND -- THE ONLY BUILDING IN ALL OF GENEVA THAT HAS BARBED WIRE ON TOP OF THE FENCE.

THE MIDDLE EAST PART OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE HELD ON THE 18TH FLOOR OF THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL.

VANCE BRINGS HIS OWN STATE DEPT INTERPRETER, WILLIAM KRIMER, TO THE SESSIONS, UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, HENRY KISSINGER, WHO RELIED ON THE SOVIETS' INTERPRETER.

KISSINGER BELIEVED THE FEWER PEOPLE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM THE FEWER LEAKS.

SO FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN NO LEAKS FROM THESE TALKS, ALTHOUGH MORE THAN 100 NEWSMEN, FROM EAST AND WEST, ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO FIND ONE.

END TEXT
REUTERS

ROBERT EVANS FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TODAY AGREED TO EXTEND THEIR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS IN GENEVA BY AN EXTRA DAY, BOOSTING SPECULATION THAT THERE WAS PROGRESS IN THE LONG-STALLED NEGOTIATIONS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- AMERICAN SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS BUT SAID REPORTERS COULD DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS FROM FACT OF 5 HRS OF TALKS AND MORE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW AND SATURDAY.

-- DELIBERATIONS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO MARCH DISCUSSIONS.

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RADIO/TV

1. CBS-TV MORNING NEWS

BERNARD KALB IN WASHINGTON

BRUCE MORTON: WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL SAYS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NO CONCERNS OVER THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL. POWELL TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT FEELS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL WAS APART FROM THE IDENTITIES OF THE LEADERS, AND WAS BASED ON THE LONG STANDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. "I KNOW," MR. POWELL WENT ON, "THAT MR. CARTER HAS NO CONCERNS ABOUT DEALING WITH THE FREELY CHOSEN GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL."

THAT IS THE OFFICIAL COMMENT. IN PRIVATE, U.S. OFFICIALS MAKE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A LABOR PARTY VICTORY, BUT SOME THINK MR. CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS MAY HAVE HELPED LIKUD.

KALB: SOME U.S. SPECIALISTS BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER INADVERTENTLY HELPED PRODUCE THE ELECTION RESULT THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT FAVOR, THE VICTORY OF BEGIN OVER PERES. OFFICIALLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT COMMENT ON WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S OUTSPOKEN REMARKS ABOUT A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS INTENSIFIED THE POLITICAL ANXIETY WITHIN ISRAEL, PROMPTING SOME UNDECIDED VOTERS TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WING LIKUD PARTY OVER THE RULING LABOR PARTY.

BUT PRIVATELY THESE SPECIALISTS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE CARTER COMMENTS, PLUS THE FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST -- THAT

THESE ELEMENTS DID MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FINAL
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BALLOTING. NO CERTAINTY, THOUGH, AS TO WHETHER THEY MADE A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE, SINCE DOMESTIC ISSUES PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE ELECTION. IT'S PREMATURE TO FORECAST THE DIPLOMATIC RESULTS OF THE TRIUMPH, BUT THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE HARDLINE VICTORY COULD PRODUCE U.S.-ISRAELI STRAINS, COULD COMPLICATE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND MIGHT EVER FRUSTRATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S HOPE FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR.

2. NBC-TV "TODAY"

RICHARD VALERIANI IN GENEVA

FLOYD KALBER: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IS IN GENEVA FOR TALKS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION, AND BOTH VANCE AND HIS TOP AIDES HAVE DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE LATEST EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

VALERIANI: THE AMERICAN EAGERNESS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING OFFICIAL ABOUT THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS WAS UNDERLINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE SAID THERE WILL BE NO COMMENT ON THE RECORD, NO COMMENT ON BACKGROUND, AND NO COMMENT ON DEEP BACKGROUND. TRANSLATED FROM THE JARGON, THAT MEANT THAT NEWSMEN COULD WRITE IF THEY WANTED TO THAT IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NO COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI ELECTION. HOWEVER, AMERICAN OFFICIALS DID ACKNOWLEDGE PRIVATELY THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ISRAELI VOTING MEAN THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO SLIP, HAS NOW SLIPPED EVEN FURTHER. IN FACT, THERE'S SERIOUS DOUBT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN NOW REACH ITS GOAL OF GETTING THE CONFERENCE UNDER WAY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

3. ABC-TV "GOOD MORNING AMERICA"

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LYNN JONES IN GENEVA

STEVE BELL: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO HAVE BEGUN THEIR SECOND DAY OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS IN GENEVA. YESTERDAY'S SESSION DESCRIBED BY A U.S. SPOKESMAN AS BUSINESSLIKE WITH A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

JONES: GROMYKO'S ARRIVAL STARTED THINGS OFF BY DAMPENING

HOPES THAT HE MIGHT BRING SOME COUNTERPROPOSALS TO THE AMERICAN PLAN THE SOVIETS REJECTED LAST MARCH IN MOSCOW. THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER DIDN'T SAY HE WOULD NOT TABLE NEW PROPOSALS, BUT HE DID SAY MUCH DEPENDS ON WHAT SECRETARY VANCE BRINGS.

THE VICTORY OF THE LIKUD PARTY IN THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS OPPOSED TO WITHDRAWING FROM ARAB OCCUPIED LANDS WILL DO NOTHING TO HELP THE MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO. BOTH MEN PUBLICLY HAVE ADOPTED A

SKEPTICAL WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. LATE THIS AFTERNOON THEY GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS AT THE OPENING SESSION, AND SPENT TWO HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES ON ARMS CONTROL. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THEY HAD WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A DETAILED, BUSINESSLIKE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

IF THERE ARE NO NEW PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE GROMYKO AND VANCE ARE DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE SYNTHESIS BETWEEN THE TWO AMERICAN PLANS AND THE OLDER SOVIET PROPOSAL BASED ON THE 1974 VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE FAR MORE MODEST THAN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE AS FAR AS THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO GO IN A SALT II AGREEMENT. THERE WILL BE AT LEAST ONE MORE ROUND OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SALT NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE VANCE AND GROMYKO ARE EVEN READY TO BEGIN THEIR MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS.

4. BARRY SCHWEID -- WTOP RADIO FROM GENEVA

NEW AND POSSIBLY CRITICAL WEAPONS TALKS HAVE OPENED IN GENEVA WITH A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CONFLICTING AMERICAN AND SOVIET APPROACHES TO A TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS. A TWO-HOUR AND TWENTY-MINUTE SESSION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO SUGGESTED THE PROCESS OF ARRANGING A COMPROMISE MAY HAVE BEGUN. SIGNIFICANTLY, AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD FAITH ON BOTH SIDES, AND THAT AFTER REFLECTION, THEY WILL TALK AGAIN THURSDAY MORNING AT THE SOVIET MISSION. SO FAR, VANCE AND GROMYKO ARE TALKING ONLY ABOUT ARMS, WITH THE MIDDLE EAST -- WHERE HARDLINERS HAVE WON CONTROL OF ISRAEL -- STILL TO BE ADDRESSED.

5. CBS RADIO

MARVIN KALB FROM GENEVA

SECRETARY VANCE DROVE UP TO THE OLD LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY A SMILING ANDREI GROMYKO.
"GOOD SLEEP?" THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER WAS MERELY
MAKING CONVERSATION. "I GOT CAUGHT UP," VANCE ANSWERED.
BOTH DIPLOMATS THEN POSED FOR CAMERAMEN BEFORE THE
SECRETARY ASKED, SOMEWHAT IMPATIENTLY, "SHALL WE GET TO
WORK?" IT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION AND A SUBSTANTIVE
ORDER. THE NEWSMEN AND THE CAMERAMEN WERE WHISKED OUT
OF THE ROOM, AND THE TWO SIDES RESUMED THEIR DETAILED

REVIEW OF ONE ANOTHER'S ALREADY REJECTED PROPOSALS FOR
A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. THERE IS NO VISIBLE
SIGN OF A BREAKTHROUGH, BUT AT LEAST AT THIS GET-
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TOGETHER THERE IS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND AN APPARENT
EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE.

FROM SEVERAL SIGNS IT APPEARS AS THOUGH THE UNITED STATES
WOULD BE WILLING TO DROP ITS PROPOSAL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
SETTLEMENT, AND ADOPT THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF THE SOVIET
PROPOSAL, AND EVENTUALLY AGREE TO THAT SO LONG AS THE
RUSSIANS THEN AGREE TO DISCUSS A COMPREHENSIVE DEEP-CUT
ARRANGEMENT.

THUS, THE U.S. HAS RETREATED A LONG WAY FROM ITS HANG
TOUGH POSITION OF SIX WEEKS AGO WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER
GAINED POPULAR SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT LOST
SOVIET CONFIDENCE IN THE PROCESS.

CHRISTOPHER

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